



Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

June 21, 2010

The Honorable George Miller, Chair
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

We commend you for your leadership on child nutrition and for the introduction of the bipartisan Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act, which would reauthorize the federal child nutrition programs and improve access to healthful meals and snacks for many of the nation's children. On behalf of the 26,000 afterschool and summer learning providers that we work with, we particularly were pleased to see the many provisions that will increase access to nutritious snacks and meals after school and during the summer months. Children rely on afterschool programs to feed their minds as well as their bodies. The many child nutrition programs make it possible for children to get the food they need both in school and during out-of-school time.

The following provisions in particular will have a tremendous impact and will help accomplish the President's goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015:

- Lowering area eligibility for the Summer Feeding program to 40 percent in rural areas.
- Creating a year-round program through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in 10 states.
- Creating an afterschool supper program through the National School Lunch Program in five states.
- Eliminating the requirement that private nonprofit Summer Food sponsors serve no more than 25 sites with no more than 300 children at any of the sites unless the sponsor receives a waiver.
- Requiring school food authorities to coordinate with Summer Food sponsors on developing and distributing Summer Food outreach materials.

Additionally, the Afterschool Alliance remains in strong support of expanding the afterschool meal program to all 50 states, as well as adjusting the area eligibility test from 50% to 40% (for family child care, afterschool and summer nutrition) to match the 21st Century Community Learning Centers level, and we look forward to working with your office and members of the House and Senate to continue to move toward President Obama's goal of \$1 billion per year of improvements in these effective programs that boost children's health and learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jodi Grant
Executive Director